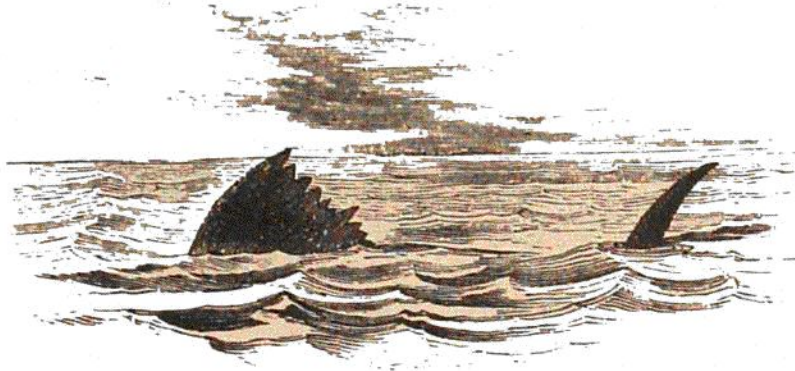


large as the Isle of Man. It is mostly low, but contains mountain masses rising to a height of 1,600 feet. Our examination of the group was confined to the extreme north-western portion of the northern coast, and the small outlying islets in the immediate vicinity.

The Admiralty Islands were discovered by Captain Philip Carteret, of H.M. sloop "Swallow," on September 14th, 1767. Captain Carteret lay off small outlying islands to the south of the group. 12 or 14 canoes came off, and the natives at once attacked him by throwing their lances into the midst of his crew. He had to fire on them, and although he made efforts to conciliate them he was entirely unsuccessful. From a statement made by Dentrecaesteaux it appears that shortly before 1790 the islands were visited by a frigate commanded by Captain Morelle.



APPEARANCE OF HISTIOPHORUS WHEN SWIMMING NEAR THE SURFACE OF THE WATER.

In 1791 the "Recherche" and "Esperance" sailed from France, under the command of Dentrecaesteaux, to search for the missing "La Perouse," the "Recherche" having on board of her, as one of the naturalists, M. Labillardière.

In the previous year, 1790, the English frigate "Sirius" was wrecked on Norfolk Island, and a Dutch vessel which conveyed her commander, Commodore Hunter, to Batavia, passed by the Admiralty Islands. Whilst she was in sight of the shore, canoes full of natives put off towards the ship, and showed a desire to communicate, and being indistinctly seen in the distance, their white shell ornaments showing against their dark skins were taken for white facings on French naval uniforms, and their reddened bark cloths for European fabrics, and Hunter was persuaded that here were relics of the unfortunate "La Perouse."

Dentrecaesteaux received information at the Cape of Good Hope, by a special despatch vessel sent for the purpose from